

CLAIMS

1. An information processing method, comprising:  
providing a user terminal;  
transmitting items of information to said user terminal;  
receiving and storing said transmitted items of information in said user terminal;  
determining an access priority for each of said stored items of information; and  
arranging said stored items of information in an order according to said access priorities.

2. The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories;  
associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category; and  
in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

3. The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:  
accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories; and

determining said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

4. The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

5. The information processing method according to claim 4, wherein said determining step includes determining said priority of each of said items of information from said priority attribute information, and determining said access

priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said priorities.

6. The information processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information and said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

7. The information processing method according to claim 6, further comprising:

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories;

determining said priority of each of said items of information from said priority attribute information; and

determining said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

8. An information processing method, comprising:

providing a user terminal;

transmitting items of information to said user terminal;

receiving and storing said transmitted items of information in said user terminal;

determining an access priority for each of said stored items of information; and

deleting at least one of said stored items of information from said user terminal in an order beginning with said item of information having the lowest access priority.

9. The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information in association with each of said items of information;

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories; and

determining said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

10. The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information;

wherein said determining step includes determining said priority of each of said items of information from said priority attribute information, and determining said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said priorities.

11. The information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

assigning to each of said items of information at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities;

associating with each of said items of information category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

in said transmitting step, transmitting said category attribute information and said priority attribute information in association with each of said items of information.

12. The information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising:

accessing at least some of said stored items of information;

determining said category of each of said accessed items of information from said category attribute information associated therewith;

counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed to define a count value for each of said plurality of categories;

determining an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories;

determining said priority of each of said items of information from said priority attribute information; and

determining said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

13. An information receiving apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive items of information transmitted from an information transmitting unit;

an information storing unit operable to store said received items of information; and

an information forming unit operable to determine an access priority for each of said stored items of information, and to arrange each of said stored items of information in an order according to said access priority.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

said information forming unit being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of information are accessed from said information storing unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storage unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said items of information is assigned a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including priority attribute information corresponding to said priority;

said information forming unit being further operable to determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and to determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said priorities.

16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a

plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

    said information forming unit being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of information are accessed from said information storing unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storing unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

17. An information receiving apparatus, comprising:  
    a receiver operable to receive items of information transmitted from an information distribution center;  
    an information storing unit operable to store said received items of information; and  
    a controller operable to control said stored items of information, wherein said controller determines an access priority for each of said stored items of information and

deletes at least one of said stored items of information from said information storing unit in an order beginning with said stored item of information having the lowest access priority.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category;

said controller being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of information are accessed from said information storing unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storage unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said items of information is assigned a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including priority attribute information corresponding to said priority;

said controller being further operable to determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said priorities.

20. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

said controller being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of information are accessed from said information storing unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storing unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

21. An information receiving apparatus, comprising:  
a receiver operable to receive items of information  
transmitted from an information distribution center and access  
priority information associated with each of said items of  
information;

a selecting unit operable to determine an access  
priority for each of said received items of information on the  
basis of said access priority information associated  
therewith, and to select a group of said items of information  
for which said access priority is high relative to said access  
priority of a remainder of said items of information; and

an information storing unit operable to store said  
items of information in said group.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein  
each of said items of information is assigned to at least one  
category from a plurality of categories, each of said items of  
information including category attribute information  
corresponding to said at least one category;

said selecting unit being further operable to  
determine said category of each of said items of information  
from said category attribute information each time said items  
of information are accessed from said information storing  
unit, determine a count value for each of said plurality of  
categories by counting a number of times each of said items of  
information in each of said plurality of categories has been  
accessed from said information storing unit, determine an

access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information from said access tendencies.

23. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each of said items of information is assigned a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including priority attribute information corresponding to said priority;

said selecting unit being further operable to determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said priorities.

24. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each of said items of information is assigned to at least one category from a plurality of categories and a priority from a plurality of priorities, each of said items of information including category attribute information corresponding to said at least one category and priority attribute information corresponding to said priority; and

said selecting unit being further operable to determine said category of each of said items of information from said category attribute information each time said items of information are accessed from said information storing

unit, define a count value for each of said plurality of categories by counting a number of times each of said items of information in each of said plurality of categories has been accessed from said information storing unit, determine an access tendency of a user from said count values of said plurality of categories, determine said priority of each of said items of information stored in said information storing unit from said priority attribute information, and determine said access priority for each of said items of information on the basis of said access tendencies and said priorities.

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